

**ATTACHMENT B**

PRISON BOARD COMMENTS

PLEASE INCORPORATE THESE REMARKS INTO THE RECORD IN  
THEIR ENTIRETY

FROM: CONSTANCE KOSUDA  
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Thank you, Members of the Board. I am here today as a member of the Board of Directors of 3 Nevada Non-Profit organizations which advocate on behalf of the mentally ill, and as a concerned citizen.

I went into the Women's Prison with Assy. Munford, and I appeared in Carson City in 2006 at the last Prison Board meeting that I knew about.

I have testified extensively in front of the Legislature, and Sub-Committees concerning medical abuse, and neglect in our State's prisons (a national phenomenon, as well) (a policy condemned by Amnesty International, the ACLU, and the United Nations as a form of torture,) and have heard testimony from some of our sitting Judges concerning the high percentage of incarcerated individuals who have mental illness.

Further, I have always believed that an oversight committee is the only real way to remedy the horrific human rights' abuses that we have all come to learn about, thanks in part to the investigations conducted by the ACLU particularly as they pertain to

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Ely Prison, although the same abuses are systemic to our DOC.

Surely, we can all agree that the fox can simply not guard the henhouse.

So, I read with great joy the remarks of our Governor, in which he so clearly stated that this Prison Board is in effect the Oversight Committee we so greatly need.

As a result I am hereby asking for the immediate formation of a bipartisan Task Force, to be appointed by this Oversight Committee, and I volunteer to serve on this Task Force.

Further, as I am fully aware of the budgetary constraints our State now faces, I wish to point out for the record, once again, in this setting, that the NDOC is one of the largest financial albatrosses around the neck of this State.

Community based treatment alternatives for the mentally ill, at a cost of \$3500.00/year must be implemented, rather than the approx. \$60,000.00/year (including land) that incarceration costs.

The time has come to heal, to step forward to an enlightened future, and engage in fiscal practices which will benefit us all.

As Dr. Austin has pointed out over the past several years, the "have/have-not" societal

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distinctions which can predict that many of our children are doomed to a life of incarceration for mostly petty crimes, bolstered by an appalling high school graduation rate here in Clark County of less than 50%, must inform us to take actions which can reliably break the cycle.

Treatment alternatives to incarceration is one of the steps we must take.

I thank you for the opportunity to make these remarks.